GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5954
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
FOODGRAINS LYING IN OPEN
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several lakh tonnes of foodgrain are lying in the open without proper protection with Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of foodgrains found rotten and the losses suffered as a result thereof during the current year so far; and

(d) the steps initiated by the Government to store the surplus foodgrains properly?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a)&(b): Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a total storage capacity (owned and hired)of 35.36 million tonnes including 8.3 million tonnes CAP (Covered & Plinth).The stock holding of FCI is 33.33 million tonnes as on 31.7.2001, which includes 7.14 million tonnes in CAP (Open) storage which is also a scientific form of storage where stocks are stored for a temporaryperiod to meet the demands of increased procurement as per needs.

(c) & (d): The quantity of foodgrains damaged due to various reasons like cyclones, floods, unprecedented rains and also due to multiple handling, transportation by rail and road, long periods of storage etc. during the current year w.e.f. April, 2001 to 31st July, 2001, is 1125.09 MT, provisionally.

Following steps are taken to protect foodgrains from deterioration:

(i) Liquidate damaged foodgrains.

(ii) closely monitor the available storage capacity in each depot.

(iii) create additional storage capacity by construction of godowns at strategic locations at micro level under the Five Year Plans and

(iv) also explore additional resources for investment in augmentation of storage facilities.